



February 28, 2023

Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 6763 AN ACT CONCERNING AN AUDIT OF THE STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATION.

Statement of Purpose: To conduct an audit and develop a plan to address issues relating to the administration of the state-wide mastery examination.

Chairmen Currey, Ranking Member McCarty and Members of the Education Committee,

The CT Republican Assembly is an organization which has members and friends totalling over 500 Republicans and conservatives across the eight counties of Connecticut. We stand firm in our principles and unalienable Rights under the US Constitution, as well as the Rights and responsibilities within the Connecticut Constitution. I am Anne Manusky, 24 year Connecticut resident, former Licensed Professional Counselor, and current President of the CT Republican Assembly

The Connecticut public school system is ranked among the worst performing schools in the nation - as per the [Heritage Institute Freedom Report Card](#), the bottom fifth in rank with discrete variables: School Choice, Transparency, Regulatory Freedom and Spending.

NAEP - the national report card provides evidence that Connecticut public schools statistics on reading and math have devolved. <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/NAEP/NAEP>
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Press-Room/Press-Releases/2022/PR-75--Student-Assessment>

This bill provides that there is to be an audit of the administration of the state wide mastery examination. There is so much more to the reported state-wide mastery examination.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments have no external validation. In 2016- I a request was submitted to the CT State Department of Education

What is the mastery percentage based on -- since the state no longer uses validated mastery examinations? CMT's were phased out years ago, and the Smarter Balanced is not an externally validated assessment as addressed in [Drilling through the Core](#) and in a 2016 Connecticut Freedom of Information Hearing [FIC -2016-0224](#)
As Attorney Urban uttered that one cannot prove a negative... that it doesn't exist?

No valid 'Mastery Test' is being provided to the children of CT. This at the expense of CT's taxpayers. This is fraud.

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In 2016, the cost of the Smarter Balanced is approximately \$2.7 million per year for administration, not including the contract, or the data collection and storage by AIR, which has additional costs in the millions.

Connecticut taxpayers have been paying a large sum of money every year for the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA/SBAC). Unfortunately the taxpayer and parents have been fleeced for as many years as this "test" has been given.

The state Department of Education is in need of an overhaul. Over X dollars goes into the State Department of Education every year, yet the children in Connecticut public schools have had a downward spiral in regard to attendance, graduation rates, reading NAEP scores and overall mental well being. The state Board of Education, Department of Education, CBE and CAPSS have been intertwined in the devolution of Connecticut's public education system. A serious review of this fraudulent mastery test is needed; secondary to an overhaul on the state standards.

Sincerely,

Anne Manusky, M.Ed.
President